

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held February 27, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Mayor William Verbosky Jr. and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Kovach, Michaels, Hermes, Marquette, Eckel, Oberdorf, and Richards all present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of February 13, 2006. Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda for regular council meeting of February 27, 2006 was presented to council. Reports from Recreation Committee and an executive session to discuss pending litigation with Perrysburg Township added. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION

Chuck Gibbons, the city's TARTA representative introduced James Gee, General Manager of TARTA who gave a presentation on the history of TARTA since 1971, improvements and enhancements in that time, and Rossford's role as an original member. He explained the Call-a-Ride and TARPS services and said that beginning this spring Mud Hen baseball service will be offered in Rossford originating at the All Saints parking lot. He said that TARTA is working on alternative fuel projects including 55 buses being powered by biodiesel and studied by the University of Toledo, as well as one bus being powered by hydrogen biodiesel and also being studied by university. He said TARTA has begun a community based marketing program geared to suburban residents and the benefits of TARTA for them. Mr. Richards said that he was quite negative on TARTA a few years ago but that improvements such as Call-a-Ride and TARPS are positive and appreciated. He said that the city needs to encourage the use of TARTA by city residents in order to justify the annual cost. Mr. Oberdorf asked how many people use the Call-a-Ride service on a daily basis and was told by Mr. Gee that it averages 70 a day. Mr. Marquette said that the numbers are better than discussed in the past and questioned how Toledo schools pay for TARTA. Mr. Gee said that the Toledo City Schools have a contract with TARTA at a marginal cost. Mr. Michaels wondered how many trips per day generate in Rossford and was told 70 passengers per day. He also asked what portion of the TARTA budget comes from local funds and was told that of the \$25 million budget 2/3 comes from local funds. Mr. Hermes asked what the cost to Rossford is for TARTA and when told about \$600-700,000 per year said based on our use we are subsidizing Toledo. Mr. Gee said public transit will never be able to pay for itself but that it provides an essential service for people who need it. Mrs. Eckel asked if people temporarily disabled can use TARPS and was told yes and asked if there was any weekend bus service in the city and was told no. She suggested weekend service to the Crossroads would be an idea worth exploring. Mr. Kovach asked what affect the cost of fuel has had on fares and was told by Mr. Gee that the regular fare has been raised from .85 cents to \$1.00 and that call-a-ride fares increased from .50 to .60 cents. He also said that ridership increased 5% from 2004 to 2005 and has had the same increase YTD.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION

Mr. Oberdorf presented the committee report of February 16th, 2006. Issues discussed were the acceptance of the proposal for the repairs to the RCRC, a strategy for rebuilding the community soccer program, the repair of the Beech Street tennis light, tree removal, proposed cost of \$23,000 for repairing tennis courts at Beech St. and Veterans Memorial Park, replacement of lights in the RCRC courtyard, and possible nature and walking/jogging trail behind Indian Hills School.

Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to accept the report as given. All ayes. Motion carried.

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Verbosky reported that Chief Foy's last day will be March 7th due to using time accumulated. The first round of resumes from potential chief candidates has been reviewed and will be reduced to a short list. He informed council that based on a recent Ohio law the new chief cannot be required to be a city resident. He had asked Mr. Heban to review the RAAA requirements regarding the President of Council being a member and that the RAAA can amend that requirement. Mr. Richards recommended that the RAAA should consider amending their requirements to only require a member of council to serve. There was no opposition from council to this recommendation. The mayor said that the performance audit is tentatively scheduled to begin March 20th. Mr. Hermes asked that an ordinance be on the next agenda requiring the police chief to at least live in Wood or an adjacent county.

Mr. Ciecka told council that each of them will be interviewed by phone as part of the performance audit. He said the regular financial audit had begun today. He advised council that he had received correspondence from the governors office stating there are no funds available for ash tree elimination, that Sergeant Marek is working on a vehicle maintenance schedule and obtained offers for discounted service for all city vehicles, and that the fire chief had given his annual report to council.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #2006-04 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF BETTY WOODS TO THE WOOD COUNTY HEALTH BOARD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky said this is a reappointment of a dedicated volunteer who has served for a number of years. Mr. Richards believes Mrs. Woods has been doing this for about 20 years. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third readings. Audience comments were requested and none received. Vote on the motion all ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to amend the resolution to correct the wording in Section 3 from Recreation to Health Board. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Richards asked that at the next council meeting a letter to the PUCO seeking a Columbia Gas audit be available for council to approve.

Mr. Oberdorf advised Mr. Ciecka of a complaint he received regarding mud on the roadway at Glenwood Rd. at the overpass. Mr. Ciecka said the operator has been contacted and the city will continue to monitor. Mr. Oberdorf also complimented Chief Verbosky and his department for the comprehensive and professional 2005 annual fire report. He noted that the department had obtained \$105,000 in grant money in 2005 and complimented them for the effort in obtaining that grant money. He also asked Mr. Ciecka who would collect the outstanding \$87,000 in ambulance billing. Mr. Ciecka said a collection service is used to collect and that some of this is money that needs to be forgiven as are billings charged to Rossford residents and not paid by insurance. Mr. Richards explained that there is a committee that forgives these amounts as Rossford residents are not required to pay beyond what is covered by their insurance.

Mrs. Eckel also complimented Chief Verbosky for his report. She has received some complaints and asked if there is an ordinance prohibiting parking on the tree lawn between the curb and sidewalk on the no parking side of the street. She said people are driving over the curb and parking on the tree lawn and feels

this will cause the breaking down of the curbs. Mr. Heban said there are no ordinances prohibiting people from parking in front of their house. They can use driveway to access but they cannot pull over the curb. Mr. Hermes said the budget committee met tonight and he will have minutes at the next meeting. They have also scheduled a meeting for March 27th at 6:00 p.m. He asked Mr. Ciecka the status of the outstanding refuse fees and said these need to be collected and not written off. Mr. Ciecka said there is about \$18,000 outstanding. Mr. Heban will start the collection process by sending a legal letter and suggested that after that a collection agency be used rather than a court process due to cost. Mr. Michaels thanked Chief Verbosky for putting together a brochure for the marina and asked council for their help in getting these distributed. He asked what the status of the kennel license situation is. Mrs. Eckel said this was discussed at the safety committee meeting and it was decided to hold a public meeting that has not yet been scheduled. Mr. Marquette asked how many households does the \$18,000 outstanding refuse fee represent and was told approximately 180. He believes that previously council discussed adding any unpaid fees to the property owner's tax bill. Mayor Verbosky said that will be a last resort.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Pat Hummer, 918 Jenison, Rossford said she has used TARTA in the past, would like TARTA to put information in the library for the public, and that you cannot put a price on this service. Chris Nietrzeba, 151 Bacon, Rossford complained about people parking on the tree lawn after pulling up over the curb. Mayor Verbosky asked her to give the addresses to Mr. Heban Lawrence Bridenbaugh, 822 Lime City Rd., Rossford asked why there was no late night bus service and was told by Mr. Gee that night service is limited due to funding. Jeff Appelhans, Hannum Ave., Rossford complained about mud from a water/sewer line break in front of his property that has been there since Christmas. Mayor Verbosky said that Mr. Jones will be contacted. Chris Szmania, 912 Jennison, Ahmed Saba, 916 Jennison, and Pat Hummer, 918 Jennison, Rossford all asked council for whatever assistance they can give them in working with Northwood on the problem with the buffer zone behind their properties. They believe there are some zoning violations and also health issues with the fill used for the mound. Mayor Verbosky said he will have Mr. Ciecka contact the Northwood City Administrator and suggested they attend Northwood's city council meetings. Eunice Rinker, 8491 Wales Rd., Rossford said when the property was developed they had conversation with Northwood regarding the buffer zone and were assured this would be done. She is looking for something in writing that states this. Mr. Ciecka said that he believes that Northwood waived the buffer zone requirement or reduced it when this property was developed.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Michaels seconded the motion to enter into executive session. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to return to regular session. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Michaels seconded the motion to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

William Verbosky Jr.
Mayor

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council